

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the remarks that follow.

At the outset, applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 16-26, 28 and 29 have been allowed and that claims 2, 5, 8-12 and 14 contain allowable subject matter.

The Examiner has rejected remaining claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 13, 15 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over the admitted prior art (specification pages 1 and 2) in view of Wiegelt et al. for the reasons stated in paragraph 4 of the Official Action.

The Examiner has also rejected dependent claim 3 as unpatentable over the acknowledged prior art in view of Wiegelt et al. and further in view of Kaminski for the reasons stated in paragraph 5 of the Official Action.

By this response, applicant has added the subject matter of allowable claim 2 into independent claim 1, thereby placing independent claim 1 and dependent claims 3-7, 13 and 15 in condition for allowance. In addition, applicant has rewritten claim 8 in independent form, thereby placing claim 8 as well as dependent claims 9-12 and 14 that depend therefrom also in condition for allowance.

Applicant has also added new claims 30-36, and of these claims, only claim 33 is written in independent form. Claim 33 recites the subject matter essentially as contained in original dependent claim 2 that is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the prior art of record.

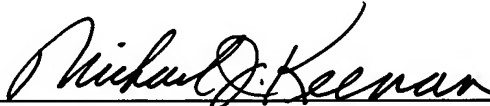
Dependent claims 34, 35 and 36 are patentable by reason of their dependence upon claim 33, and new claims 30, 31 and 32 are patentable by reason of their dependence upon independents claim 1, 8 and 34, respectively.

With these changes, all of the remaining original claims 1 and 3-29, along with new claims 30-36 are in condition for immediate allowance and early passage to issue is requested.

Should any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that the prosecution of this application can be expeditiously concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

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